

**Senate File 2215 - Introduced**

SENATE FILE 2215

BY DICKY

**A BILL FOR**

1 An Act relating to the administration of the habitat and public  
2 access program and establishing an annual payment under the  
3 program.

4 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF IOWA:

1 Section 1. NEW SECTION. 483A.29 Habitat and public access  
2 program.

1. In order to incentivize the opening of private lands to public hunting, while providing grant funds to create, manage, and enhance wildlife habitat, the department shall administer the habitat and public access program under 571 IAC ch. 22, pt. 2.

2. For land to be eligible under the habitat and public access program, the applicant's land shall be located in this state and already contain wildlife habitat or the applicant shall be willing to allow development of wildlife habitat. The applicant must also enter into an agreement with the department and allow public access for hunting without charge on at least forty acres.

15       3. From funds available to the department for the habitat  
16 and public access program, the department shall provide an  
17 annual payment to owners of land enrolled in the program of  
18 eight dollars per acre.

19 EXPLANATION

20 The inclusion of this explanation does not constitute agreement with  
21 the explanation's substance by the members of the general assembly.

22 This bill directs the department of natural resources to  
23 administer the habitat and public access program under 571  
24 IAC ch. 22, pt. 2. That program is established, in part, to  
25 incentivize the opening of private lands to public hunting  
26 while providing grant funds to create, manage, and enhance  
27 wildlife habitat. The bill specifies that for land to be  
28 eligible under the habitat and public access program, the  
29 applicant's land shall be located in this state and already  
30 contain wildlife habitat or the applicant shall be willing to  
31 allow development of wildlife habitat. The applicant must also  
32 enter into an agreement with the department and allow public  
33 access for hunting without charge on at least 40 acres. The  
34 bill also provides that, from funds available to the department  
35 of natural resources for the habitat and public access program,

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1 the department shall provide an annual payment to owners of  
2 land enrolled in the program of \$8 per acre.